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almost entirely ceased, and fresh water is among the luxuries. Almost within sight of Curagoa is the coast of the Spanish Main, covered with the rankest vegetation, over which the burdened clouds shower down abundant blessings.

Still another example of the connection of such cause and effect is furnished in this same tropical regions. It is further interesting as a curious instance of the influence of *political* changes upon climate. Sir Charles Lyell, describing the Lake of Valentia in Venezuela, a broad sheet of water surrounded by a wide belt of cultivation, tells us that the *level of the lake* has fluctuated with the varying fortunes of this unhappy Spanish republic. From time to time a fierce revolution, more devastating than tropical storm, has swept over the land. In these cruel wars among brethren nothing was spared. The inhabitants were slaughtered and the land laid waste. In this burning region, on the line of the maximum temperature of the globe, nature quickly resumed her supremacy over the works of man. A riotous vegetation sprung up on every side. Tilled fields reverted to forest. The streams augmented, and the *level of the lake was raised*. Then came an interval of peace. The land was inhabited once more; the forests were removed, the streams dried, and the lake sank to its former level. Several such tides in the waters and in the affairs of men, are recorded, furnishing convincing proof, if proof is needed, of the intimate relation of atmospheric moisture to vegetable life. Humboldt, in his personal narrative, relates his visit to the lake of Valentia, and his measurement of its changes of level and coast line.

In view of these facts, what are we to expect in our own country, but the like results, less rapid perhaps, but none the less sure, from the unrelenting warfare which is carried on against our ancient forests? The thought may well startle us. How shall we arrest so fearful a fate?

FRED. HUBBARD.

Jas. S. Merriam, Esq.

New York, Jan. 2, 1873.

9. Mistletoe.—In England at present, as is well-known, the mistletoe is rarely, or almost never found growing upon the oak. Indeed, I have read in some recent authority that only three oak-trees are known in all Great Britain with mistletoe upon them.

Being in England last Christmas day, and observing the mistletoe everywhere conspicuous, in company with the holly, ivy and laurel, I made inquiry, wherever I could get a chance, as to whence the supply was obtained. Some knew only that just before Christmas day, at the markets, one could get a bunch of mistletoe, holly and ivy to hung in the window, for "tuppence" or more, according to quantity and quality. I saw few people who had seen it growing; and those had only seen it upon crab-trees or old apple-trees, never upon an oak; and hardly any would believe that it could grow on an oak. Nor had they ever seen it except in the west of England. Generally, they thought that it grew only in England. At a wholesale stand in a market in Liverpool, the day after Christmas, I saw a very large bunch on a piece of an apple-tree limb, the branches of mistletoe being as much as four feet long, and the thickest part of

some branches, an inch and a half or two inches in diameter. The price of that bunch then, the day after Christmas, was five shillings sterling. The market man said he believed it came from Kidderminster; and that the market supply came from the west of England. However, I had several opportunities to inquire of well-informed business men, familiar with the imports and exports and shipping of England, and they uniformly gave me quite another account, which, in the words of one of them, as nearly as I can remember, is the following: "O yes, I know all about the mistletoe, you know: it is a fungus, you know; a thing that grows on the branches of trees, you know. I never saw much of it in England; it always grows on knotty old apple-trees: never on an oak. They tell some rubbish about oaks and Druids and the sacred plant, you know, and believe that it is the native English thing, you know, and, particularly among the lower classes, good to kiss the ladies under at Christmas, you know—a sort of harmless bounce, a pious deceit, that does very well, you know. But I've seen no end of it in Belgium, on old orchards, apple-trees that are lumpy and don't bear much fruit; and at Christmas time they import immense crates of it from Belgium into England: crates of immense size—most surprising numbers of them—and supply the whole English market. It's just as good, you know, for there's not much more mistletoe than Druids in England now, you know."

I learned also, that, according to general report, the mistletoe was propagated by boring holes in the bark of trees, deep enough to get at the sap, and inserting the broken berry, or the seed with its viscous covering.

ISAAC H. HALL.

10. *Financial*.—Subscriptions for 1873 are now due. It would facilitate transmission if, along with their subscription money, our friends remitted ten cents for prepayment of postage for the remainder of the year. Some have sent us double the amount necessary, viz., at the old rate of postage. We shall credit them with the excess.

11. *List of Botanists*.—We propose publishing a Directory of Botanists in the United States. Our correspondents in each State or locality would aid us by sending us the names and addresses of those known to them to be interested in the study.

12. *Orchids*.—Additional localities are: *Habenaria cristata*, R. Br., Secaucus, *Bower*; *H. blephariglottis*, Hook., Babylon, L. I., and generally along the south shore, between Babylon and Jamaica, *Merriam*.—*Pogonia verticillata*, Nutt., Woods at New Lots, L. I., *Merriam*.—*Lipparis liliifolia*, Rich., and *L. Loeselii*, Rich., shady moist hill sides back of Nyack, *Merriam*.—*Corallorrhiza odontorrhiza*, Nutt., Laurel Hill, Jamaica, L. I., *Ruger*.

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Local Herbarium, 3, E. 33d St.—Editor, 224, E. 10th St.

*The Club meets regularly the last Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College, at 7½ P.M.*